

ELINOR WONDER'S WHY

EP 203A: "Spice is Nice"

By Madeleine Patton

Elinor's Question: What makes Olive's curry spicy?

Simple Answer: Adding Chili peppers to foods makes it spicy.

Logline: The kids try to figure out what it is that makes food - specifically, Olive's Mom's veggie curry - spicy!

Science Consultant: Jenn Williams

Curriculum Goals: LS6, LS8, SEP1, SEP6, EPS7

PRIMARY GOAL LS6. Understand that individuals of the same kind of plant or animal are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways:

- a. Contrast individuals of the same kinds of plant and animal
- b. Observe and recognize how we are the same and different from others

(Elinor and her friends contrast the chili pepper to other foods, and other peppers).

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different:

- a. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals

(Elinor and her friends observe the characteristics of spicy chili peppers and compare them with other food).

SEP1. Asking questions

- b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena
- c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation

(Elinor and her friends ask and try to answer questions about what makes Olive's food so spicy, and what "spicy" actually is!)

SEP6. Constructing explanations

- a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena

- b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena

- c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation

- d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem

(Elinor and her friends try different foods using the same ingredients to figure out which ingredient is the spicy one).

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive

SECONDARIES: Olive's Mom, Ms. Beaver, Ms. Llama, Mr. Antelope

LOCATIONS: Park, Animal Town Potluck

PROPS: Curry Bowls, Olive's Notebook, Yogurt, Milkshakes,
Cookies, Peppers, Carrots, Potatoes, Ginger

Outline: January 9th

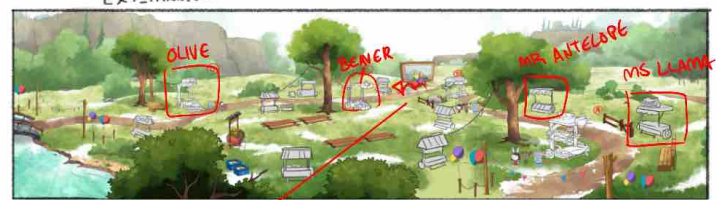
First Draft: January 23rd

Second Draft: February 2nd

Polish: February 21st

Record Draft: February 27th

THE PARK SHOULD BE POPULATED



1. EXT. PARK - DAY

The summer sun shines down on stalls with townsfolk proudly sharing their favorite foods at the Animal Town Potluck.

ARI and ELINOR walk around in wonder, looking in on all sorts of tables with the ingredients laid out beside finished dishes, and live cooking demonstrations happening.

Ari's pulled in every direction at once, sniffing his way through the park.

1
ARI
Wow, look at that one! And did you
SMELL that one?! Mr. Dog is making
grilled cheese sandwiches! <GASP!>
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EAT FIRST!!
(then, so sincerely)
I think Potluck day might be my
favorite day of the year.

DON'T NEED TO SHOW

ARI FOLLOWS HIS EYES
& NOSE. HE SEES SOME
ONE-THEN SMELLS ANOTHER

1
-WIDE PANNING SHOT
-ELINOR WALKS
-ARI GOING FROM ONE
SIDE OF ELINOR TO THE
OTHER (EXCITED)

2
ELINOR
(giggles)
I love it too! It's sooo
interesting to taste everybody's
favorite foods!

2
MID SHOT OF ELINOR
-ARI STILL ALL OVER THE
PLACE

Ari spots OLIVE and her Mom in a nearby stall.
COMES TO A SUDDEN STOP. — CUT TO OLIVES' STALL

3
ARI
Ohhh, speaking of favorite foods --
let's go see what Olive and her mom
made!

3

Elinor and Ari make a beeline for Olive's stall, excited. ARI LEADS THE WAY.

2. EXT. PARK - MS. ELEPHANT'S STALL - DAY

OLIVE + MOM
BEHIND COUNTER
- EXIT SL

Ari and Elinor follow their noses to Olive's table, where she's serving up hot bowls of veggies that her mom (MS. ELEPHANT) just finished cooking. Olive waves at Ari and Elinor excitedly, <WELCOMING AD LIB> as they walk over.

- WAVES AT DEPARTING
CUSTOMERS, THEN SEES
A + E (STOPS WAVING).

-TO TWO
PEOPLE
-ONE ALREADY
HAS BOWL
-THEY WALK
AWAY W/
SMILE
TOWARDS
ELINOR + ARI

4
MS. ELEPHANT
Hello, kids! I'm about to step out
to buy more ingredients but help
yourselves to some curry!

4
- PUTTING EMPTY CANVAS BAG
OVER HER SHOULDER.
- WALKING AWAY.

5
ARI/ELINOR
Thanks, Ms. Elephant!

5

Ms. Elephant exits as Olive hands Ari and Elinor steaming bowls of curry.

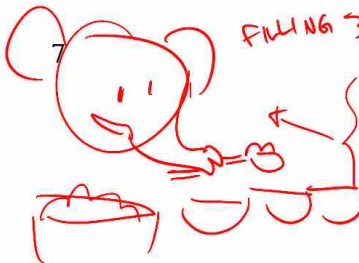
Ari takes in another deeply satisfied <SNIFF>.



6

ARI

Mmmmm. Smells amaaaaazing.



7

OLIVE

It is amazing! It's veggie curry, my mom's specialty. She learned how to make it from my nana, and I'm learning to make it from my mom. I already wrote down all the most important ingredients, look!

7

Olive reaches into her satchel and pulls out a spiral notebook. She shows them a page inside, where she's drawn pictures of the all the main ingredients next to each other on the same page (like a checklist). We see potatoes, carrots, ginger root and chili peppers.

Ari blows on a heaping spoonful of steaming curry, as Elinor gives her own bowl of curry a hardy <SNIFF>.

8

ELINOR

It does smell delicious.

- ELINOR PICKS UP BOWL
- ARI LEAVES BOWL ON COUNTER + PICKS UP SPOON.

8

9

OLIVE

Curry is my favorite. I can't wait to share it with every...

- NEED TO SEE ON SCREEN

Before she can finish her sentence, Ari eats his spoonful of curry and... his eyes BULGE in his head! He turns red, flapping his wings and doing loop-de-loops in the air!

10

ARI

OHHHHH, THAT IS SPIIIICYYY!!

10

Olive and Elinor watch him do a few more loops before he tuckers himself out and lands.

11

OLIVE

Are you okay? Here, have some yogurt, it'll help.

11

Olive hands him some yogurt and he eats it gratefully - <AHHHHH>. Much better.

Elinor takes a bite of her curry, and her ears zip up in surprise. She reddens a little.

12

ELINOR

Ohhhh! That is spicy! It makes my mouth all tingly.

12

KEEP FUN + LIGHT.
- KIDS SHOULDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE IN PAIN.

Olive looks between them, concerned and a little confused.
She takes a bite of her own bowl of curry.

13 OLIVE 13
Huh. I must be used to spiciness. I
only feel it a little bit. Is it
okay?

14 ARI 14
Okay? I love it! *← HIS BOWL STILL ON COUNTER*

Ari takes another enthusiastic mouthful, and immediately
turns red and swoops around in the air again. *— BIGGER THAN THE FIRST*

15 ARI (CONT'D) 15
(goofily, in the air) Thiiiiis iiiis
thee beeeest!

He lands, panting, and eats more yogurt, beaming. Olive
furrows her brow - worried.

16 OLIVE 16
I'm glad you like it Ari, but if
it's this spicy for you, what if
it's too spicy for everyone else?
(gasp) What if they don't even want
to try it?!

*WALKS AROUND TO
FRONT TO JAN
E + A
- ELINOR SETS
BOWL BACK DOWN.*

Elinor puts a paw on Olive's shoulder reassuringly.

17 ELINOR 17
I'm sure they'll like it, Olive.
It's really tasty!

18 OLIVE 18
Yeah, but maybe not everyone's used
to food this spicy. I should go
tell my mom.

19 ARI 19
She said she was going to buy more
ingredients.

20 OLIVE 20
Let's go find her. C'mon!

Olive grabs a bowl of curry, and the friends head off to find
Ms. Elephant.

PUTS SPOON DOWN
— W/ SPOON IN BOWL
*EXIT SR TOWARDS M2 BEAVER'S
STALL.*

3. EXT. PARK - DAY

AND OTHER CHARACTERS
The friends walk together through the park, past various stalls, chatting. Elinor looks down at the bowl of curry Olive carries.

21	ELINOR	21
	Hmmm... I wonder what makes the	
	curry spicy anyway.	
22	ARI	22
	Maaaaaybe it's spicy because it's	
	yellow?	
23	ELINOR	23
	Why yellow?	
24	ARI	24
	Well, because fire is kind of	
	yellow-ish and that's hot. Maybe	
	yellow is just a hot colour?	
	Elinor considers this, then shakes her head.	
25	ELINOR	25
	Hmmm, but I've had lots of foods	
	that are yellow and not spicy. Like	
	lemons!	
26	OLIVE	26
	Or bananas!	
27	ARI	27
	Oh, yeah! I always forget about	
	bananas.	
28	ELINOR	28
	Hmmm... maaaaaybe it's spicy because	
	it's heated up on the stove?	
29	OLIVE	29
	But I've had curry as cold	
	leftovers and it's still spicy!	
30	ARI	30
	Hmmm it's a mystery...	
31	OLIVE	31
	A spicy mystery!	

*WALKING
SIDE BY SIDE
(OLIVE IN MIDDLE)*

4. EXT. PARK - MRS. BEAVER'S STALL - CONTINUOUS

They pass by Mrs. Beaver's stall, and the kids wave at her. She's surrounded by smoothie ingredients and stands in front of a large blender.

32 KIDS STOP
ABOUT 10-15
33 FEET AWAY
FROM STALL

ARI
Hi, Mrs. Beaver! What food are you sharing today?

MRS. BEAVER
Hello, kids! Today I'm sharing strawberry smoothies! Want some?

32 MRS. BEAVER IS HANDING
GLASS TO CUSTOMER.
33 CUSTOMER THEN WALKS AWAY.

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI
Yes!!/ Mmmm strawberry! /
Strawberries are my favourite!

34 KIDS RUN OVER

MRS. BEAVER
These smoothies are very easy to make at home with your parents. It all starts with a bit of ice!

rackles some ice cubes out of a tray and into a blender.

KIDS GATHER
AROUND.

MRS. BEAVER (CONT'D)
Then you add your honey to make it sweet, oat milk for creaminess and, of course, strawberries for strawberry-ness!

36 WATCHING

adds those ingredients from pre-measured bowls positioned around her, and pushes the "blend" button on the blender. After a moment, the blender stops, and she pours some smoothie into cups for the kids.

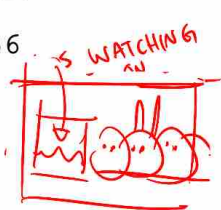
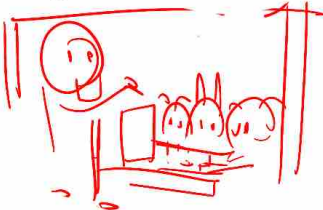
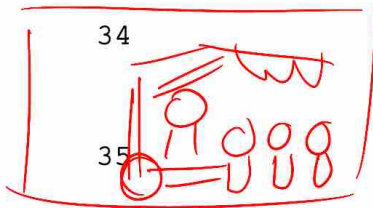
Olive puts down her bowl of curry and grabs a smoothie along with her friends. They all <SLURP> it down and grin. <SFX: MMM/DELICIOUS!> or

37 ARI
This must be the best, most strawberry-ee-est thing I have ever tasted. Long live Potluck day!!

38 ELINOR
Hmm... so adding the strawberries is what makes it taste so "strawberry-ee"?

39 MRS. BEAVER
That's right! The ingredients you put in a food are what give it its flavour.

(MORE)



MRS. BEAVER (CONT'D)

Adding strawberries to a smoothie
makes it taste like strawberries

40

ELINOR

40

That is so interesting! Hmmm...
Maybe Olive's Mom's curry is spicy
because one of the ingredients
makes it spicy?

41

OLIVE

41

I think you're right, Elinor!
(then, to Mrs. Beaver)
Mrs. Beaver, we're looking for my
Mom to tell her our curry is really
spicy to some animals.

42

MRS. BEAVER

42

Oh! I just saw her go that way.

Mrs. Beaver points further into the park.

43

OLIVE

43

C'mon, we should catch up!

The friends polish off the last of their milkshakes, pausing
to wipe off ridiculous pink milk mustaches before heading
off. Olive grabs her bowl of curry and they wave goodbye to
Mrs. Beaver.

44

ARI

44

Bye, Mrs. Beaver! Thanks for the
smoothies!

5. EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

The kids continue walking through the park, past various
stalls. Elinor ponders what they've just learned.

45

ELINOR

45

So, one of the ingredients in your
Mom's curry is what makes it spicy.
I wonder which one?

Olive hands Ari her bowl of curry, then digs through her
satchel.

46

OLIVE

46

Oh! I have the list of the
ingredients right here!

She opens her notebook to her page with the drawings of
ingredients. All the friends peer at it.

(SR TOWARDS
MR ANTELOPE'S
STALL)

PUT GLASSES ON
COUNTER

OLIVE IN THE
MIDDLE


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47                                ARI                                47
                                But which one makes the curry
                                spicy?

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48 ELINOR 48
Humm, well let's see. The first
ingredient is carrots - I know
those aren't spicy. My dad makes
carrot stuff all the time! Carrot
stew, carrot muffins, carrot
pancakes - they're not spicy!

Olive marks a little "x" next to carrots in her list.

49	OLIVE	49
	So it's not carrots...	

50	ARI	50
	Oh the next ingredient is potatoes; I know those don't make food spicy either! I've had potato chips, potato soup, mashed potatoes... none of that's spicy!	

Olive places an "x" next to potatoes.

51 OLIVE 51
Potatoes are off the list! So the
ingredient that makes the curry
spicy must be one of these two.

She gestures to the picture of ginger root and the picture of chili peppers. Ari points at the ginger.

52	ARI	52
	What's this one?	

53 OLIVE 53
This one is ginger.

54 ELINOR 54
Could it be ginger that makes the
curry spicy?

As they have this conversation, they happen to be walking by MR. ANTELOPE'S stall. It's covered in delicious looking cookies.

cookies.

55 ANTELOPE FINISHES SERVING CUSTOMER + HIS EARS THEN PERK UP ON "GINGER" MR. ANTELOPE 55

Hello, kids! Did someone say ginger? Ginger cookies happen to be my specialty! Care to try some?

The kids grin. + RUN OVER.

56 OLIVE/ELINOR 56
Yes please!

Ari's so happy he could cry.

57 ARI 57
Have I mentioned how much I love
Potluck day? It's the best day.
Each friend takes a cookie, *OLIVE TAKES COOKIE WITH TRUNK.* and <CRUNCHES> on it, chewing
thoughtfully. <AD LIB: Oh! Mmmmm! Yum!>

58 OLIVE 58
It's... a little spicy?

59 ELINOR 59
Yeah but, it's not the same kind of
spicy. Kind of tangy?

60 ARI 60
It definitely doesn't set my mouth
on fire the same way as curry, but
they're just as tasty. These are
sooo good Mr. Antelope!

Mr. Antelope nods, pleased.

61 MR. ANTELOPE 61
Glad you like it! That'll be the
ginger! It's the ingredient that
gives these cookies their taste.
(then)
So, what brings you to the
wonderful world of ginger, kids?

62 OLIVE 62
My mom and I made this curry, but
I'm worried animals who aren't used
to spicy food won't enjoy it.

63 ELINOR 63
So we were wondering what
ingredient makes the curry spicy.

Mr. Antelope taps his chin thoughtfully.

64 MR. ANTELOPE 64
I see... and I have an idea. Have a
try of these cookies too.

He holds out two more trays of cookies, one with cookies
shaped like hearts, one with cookies shaped like crescent
moons. Each friend takes a cookie from the heart tray (which
is a little lighter color) and <MUNCHES> thoughtfully.

65 ARI 65
Delicious, this is the best cookie
I've ever had.

66 OLIVE 66
 Yep, it's great but it doesn't
 taste as gingery as the other one?

Elinor nods in agreement as they all reach for a sample of the moon shaped cookies (a little darker in color).

67 ELINOR TRAYS, MR ANTELOPE SETS THE
And this one is a lot more gingery! SIDE ON COUNTER

68 ARI 68
WOW!! I take it back, THIS is the
best cookie I've ever had!

Olive looks at Mr. Antelope curiously.

69 OLIVE 69
Mr. Antelope, why do these cookies
taste so different?

70 MR. ANTELOPE
Well, I put less ginger in these,
(he points to the lighter
colored heart-shaped
cookies)
and extra ginger in those.
(he points to the darker
moon shaped ones)

TRAYS ARE ON
COUNTER

70

The kids look between the trays of cookies thoughtfully.

71 ELINOR 71
Hmmm, so putting less ginger makes
the cookies taste less ginger-y and
adding more makes them taste more
ginger-y!

72 MR. ANTELOPE 72
That's exactly right, Elinor, very
good!

73 ELINOR 73
That is so interesting!

74 OLIVE 74
Buuuut none of the cookies were
spicy like the curry, so ginger
can't be our mystery ingredient!

Elinor nods thoughtfully.

84 ARI (CONT'D) 84
You're the best. See ya!

Ari ducks back out as Mr. Antelope <CHUCKLES> to himself.

6. EXT. PARK - MS. LLAMA'S STALL - PEPPER SECTION - DAY

Olive, Elinor and Ari catch up with Ms. Elephant at Mrs. Llama's stall. She's browsing in the chili pepper section, among a colorful selection of all sorts of chilis.

85 MS. LLAMA 85
Hello, children! Welcome!

86 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE
Hi, Ms. Llama!

87 MS. ELEPHANT 87
How are you three enjoying the
potluck?

88 OLIVE 88
It's been great! Only... when Ari
tried our curry it was very spicy
for him.

She holds up the bowl of curry for emphasis.

89 MS. ELEPHANT 89
Oh, did you not like it Ari?

90 ARI 90
I loved it! It's delicious!!

He takes a big spoonful of the curry to demonstrate... and promptly does over the top loop-de-loops in the air from the heat.

As he lands, Mrs. Elephant gives Olive a knowing look - ah, this problem. I see.

91 OLIVE 91
It made us wonder what makes curry
spicy, and we figured it out!

92 ELINOR 92
First we learned that ingredients
are what give food their flavor.
Then we figured it must be the
chili peppers that make this curry
spicy!

Ms. Elephant smiles and shows them the handful of chili peppers in her hand.

93 MS. ELEPHANT 93
They sure do. I was just about to
buy more now, see?

The kids look at the peppers curiously.

Ms. Llama notices their interest and smiles.

94 MS. LLAMA 94
Chili peppers are special veggies
with big flavors. Cultures all over
the world use their own kinds of
chili peppers in their cooking.

Ms. Llama gestures to her pepper table, full of habaneros,
jalapeños, poblanos, shishitos, cayenne peppers, scotch
bonnet peppers - all sorts!

95 MS. LLAMA (CONT'D) 95
See here? I have habaneros,
jalapeños, poblanos, shishito, and
more!

96 ELINOR 96
All of these are chili peppers?
Wow! That is so interesting!

Olive turns to her mom.

97 OLIVE 97
Mom, I'm worried some of the town
folks aren't used to spicy food.
What if they don't like the curry?

Ms. Elephant nods, considering this seriously.

98 MS. ELEPHANT 98
You're right Olive, not everyone
enjoys the feeling of "spicy" in
their mouth.

99 OLIVE 99
What can we do?

In the background, Ari takes a cookie from his pocket and
begins to munch on it.

100 MS. ELEPHANT 100
Hmmm....

7. EXT. PARK - OLIVE'S STALL (MONTAGE) - DAY

<MUSIC UP> Over a montage of Ms. Elephant making two batches of curry with the help of Olive, Elinor and Ari!

- Ms. Elephant chops potatoes into big chunks and scoops them into Ari's bowl.

- Ms. Elephant chops carrots into nice rings and scoops them into Elinor's bowl

- Ms. Elephant grates the ginger and scoops it into Olive's bowl.

- Ms. Elephant puts some pots on the stove, and the kids pour their ingredients between them evenly.

- Ms. Elephant carefully chops the chilis herself

109

MS. ELEPHANT

109

It's always best for a grownup to chop chili peppers, if you're not careful they can sting your eyes!

- The kids glance at each other, <OOOOOH!>, and they help Ms. Elephant pour juuust the right amount of chopped chili pepper in each batch of curry. Perfect!

- Ari, Elinor and Olive high five - they did it!

END MONTAGE.

8. EXT. PARK - OLIVE'S STALL - LATER

Animals happily line up for bowls of curry at Olive and her mom's stall. As Mrs. Beaver reaches the front of the line, Olive asks:

110

OLIVE

110

Would you like spicy or non-spicy?

111

MRS. BEAVER

111

Non-spicy, please!

Olive scoops a heaping scoop of curry into her bowl. Mrs. Beaver takes a big bite appreciatively. <MMMMM!> - she obviously loves it. Olive stands a little straighter, proud as she walks away.

112

ELINOR

112

Wow, your stall must be the most popular one at the whole potluck!

SHOULD CLEARLY SHOW ONE POT GETS A LOT A THE OTHER GETS A LITTLE.

ELINOR IS EATING A BOWL OF CURRY AS WELL.

ELINOR + ARI ARE IN FRONT OF STALL, OUT OF THE WAY OF LINE

—MS ELEPHANT TAKES OVER FOR OLIVE

113

OLIVE

113

I know!! I'm just so happy everyone
can enjoy my favorite food! Thanks
for your help!

Ari grins happily and takes a big spoonful of his own bowl of
curry. Suddenly, he TURNS RED and does the same loop-de-loops
in the air as the beginning!

114

OLIVE (CONT'D)

114

Oh no, Ari! Did you accidentally
take from the spicy curry?

Ari lands back on his feet and *PUTS SPOON IN BOWL* frantically eats some of the
yogurt Olive has already held out to him.

115

ARI

115

Nope, I did it on purpose. Because
the spice... is nice!

He can't resist taking one more bite, and predictably turns
red again and flies around in circles. Olive and Elinor
exchange a look and <GIGGLE>. <OH, ARI!>

FADE OUT.